

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of )  
Toshihiko ASHIKARI et al )  
Group Art Unit: TO BE ASSIGNED )  
Application No.: TO BE ASSIGNED )  
(corresponds to PCT/JP96/00348) )  
Examiner: TO BE ASSIGNED )  
Filed: August 18, 1997 )  
For: A GENE ENCODING A PROTEIN )  
HAVING ACYL GROUP TRANSFER )  
ACTIVITY )

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified  
application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 2-9, 13-15 and 18-25 as follows:

2. (Amended) The gene according to claim 1 produced by the process of  
[objectionable by] cloning using as [the] a primer a nucleotide sequence encoding the  
amino acid sequence [as set forth in] of SEQ ID No. 21.

3. In claim 3, page 74, line 10, please delete "as set forth in" and insert

--of--.